

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013734

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. DAYAN COMMENTS ON ELECTIONS, PEACE PROSPECTS

MOSHE DAYAN, WHO IS ABOUT TO TRAVEL TO THE US, HAS TOLD CHARGE DUNNIGAN HE IS CONFIDENT THE LABOR PARTY WILL PREVAIL IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS, BUT UNCERTAIN WHETHER IT WILL BE LED BY RABIN OR PERES. IN ANY CASE, HE DOUBTS HE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN OR ACCEPT A POSITION IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT BECAUSE HE OBJECTS STRENUOUSLY TO CERTAIN PLATFORM MODIFICATIONS PROPOSED BY ALLON.

REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, DAYAN SAID A SOLUTION COULD NOW BEST BE APPROACHED THROUGH INTERIM AGREEMENTS,
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RATHER THAN AT GENEVA. HE URGED THAT THE US NOT PRESSURE ISRAEL BECAUSE IT WOULD THEN BECOME LIABLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 421, 1/20.)

2. BRITISH BELIEVE SAUDI OIL REVOLT MAY FAIL

EMBASSY LONDON REPORTS THAT BRITISH OFFICIALS ARE SKEPTICAL

ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA'S CHANCES OF WINNING ITS STRUGGLE OVER THE TWO-TIER OIL PRICING SYSTEM, AND PREDICTS THAT HMG IS LIKELY TO BE HESITANT ABOUT AGREEING TO A TOUGH LINE IN SUP-

PORT OF THE SAUDI/UAE POSITION IF IT INVOLVES ANTAGONIZING IRAN. THE BRITISH QUESTION WHETHER THE SAUDIS WILL BE ABLE TO INCREASE PRODUCTION FAST ENOUGH TO PUT REAL PRESSURE ON THE OPEC HARDLINERS, AND DO NOT BELIEVE THE OIL COMPANIES WILL BE WILLING TO SLOW DOWN PURCHASING ENOUGH TO HOLD DOWN PRICES IN THE FACE OF A WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE BRITISH COULD PROBABLY STILL BE BROUGHT ALONG ON IEA INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF THE SAUDIS IF THEY WERE:

--LOW KEY AND DID NOT CONFRONT THE IRANIANS TOO DIRECTLY;

--PRECEDED BY HIGH-LEVEL US/UK TALKS TO CLARIFY POSSIBLE POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT OR MISUNDERSTANDING; AND

--ACCOMPANIED BY AN INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF THE SAUDI/UAE OIL UNDER DISCUSSION WHICH WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO BP AND SHELL. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 1073, 1/20.)

3. EAST GERMAN REGIME FINE-TUNES REPRESSION

EMBASSY BERLIN BELIEVES RECENT INSTANCES OF DOMESTIC RECONFIDENTIAL

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PRESSION AND OBSTREPEROUSNESS ON THE BERLIN ISSUE INDICATE THE GDR IS TRYING TO NIP IN THE BUD A GROWING DISCONTENT BROUGHT ON PARTLY BY A SLOWDOWN IN THE ECONOMY. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY DISCOUNTS PRESS SPECULATION THAT THE REGIME IS SERIOUSLY WORRIED AND CONTEMPLATING A MAJOR CRACKDOWN. INSTEAD, IT BELIEVES THE GDR HAS ACTED CAREFULLY, SWIFTLY AND PROBABLY EFFECTIVELY TO PREVENT EITHER ECONOMIC GRUMBLING OR NASCENT POLITICAL OPPOSITION. THE GDR MAY HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY:

--A DESIRE TO CONTAIN THE IMPACT OF THE FRG ON ITS POPULATION;

--ITS VIEW THAT THE FRG, WHICH IT BELIEVES IS IMMOBILIZED IN ITS OSTPOLITIK, NEED NOT BE ACCOMMODATED AT PRESENT; AND

--NERVOUSNESS OVER LAST SUMMER'S TURMOIL IN POLAND. (CONFIDENTIAL) BERLIN 5115, 1/19.)

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4. A COSTA RICAN EXIT FROM BELIZE IMBROGLIO?

PRESIDENT ODUBER TOLD AMBASSADOR TODMAN JANUARY 18 THAT
BRITAIN, BELIZE AND PANAMA HAD WORKED OUT A SCENARIO FOR
THE SOLUTION OF THE FESTERING BELIZE DISPUTE WHICH HE FELT
CERTAIN GUATEMALA COULD BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT. HE SAID
HMG HAD AGREED TO ALLOW BRITISH TROOPS IN BELIZE TO BE
REPLACED BY AN INTERNATIONAL LATIN AMERICAN FORCE (COM-
POSED ESSENTIALLY OF PANAMA NATIONAL GUARD UNITS) AND THEN
TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO BELIZE. ACCORDING TO THE SCENA-
RIO, GUATEMALA AND BELIZE WOULD THEN OPEN BORDER NEGOTIA-
TIONS, WITH BELIZE PREPARED TO MAKE MINOR TERRITORIAL CON-
CESSIONS, AND BELIZE WOULD BE INVITED TO JOIN THE CENTRAL
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AMERICAN COMMON MARKET.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT ODUBER'S SCENARIO
HAS ACTUALLY BEEN AGREED UPON, RATHER THAN MERELY PROPOSED.
(CONFIDENTIAL) SAN JOSE 268, 1/19.)
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